

use permit from the U.S. Forest Service, and a dredge and fill permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Because of that, Telluride lacks the power of sales for the contract. I feel very strongly that this is something that we have to proceed with.

As I stated during the consideration of similar legislation that we have dealt with over a period of time, the lack of a power sales contract is the main reason for the construction of hydroelectric projects, and the fact that they have not been able to commence in a timely manner.

It is very difficult for a hydroelectric project sponsor to secure financing until such time as they are granted a license and the construction deadline begins to run. Mr. Speaker, I, with cooperation from my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), we have worked on these things back and forth all the time.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I first thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAEFER), and certainly I thank the House. I suggest that H.R. 2217 would simply extend the deadline for the commencement of construction for a 4.6 megawatt hydroelectric project in San Miguel County, Colorado, until January 30 of the year 2002. This would extend the deadline to 10 years after the date the license was issued.

According to the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), construction had not commenced because of delays in obtaining a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service, and an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge and fill permit, and because it lacks a power purchase agreement.

This legislation simply provides that the licensee must meet the Federal Power Act Section 13 requirement that it prosecute construction "in good faith and with due diligence."

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has indicated in a letter to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power that it has no objection to the enactment of this legislation. Under statute, FERC can only grant a 2-year extension of the construction license.

This legislation is not controversial. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2217.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXTENDING TIME REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2841) to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2841

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF PERIOD TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 805) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project numbered 10395, the Commission shall, at the request of the licensee for the project and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due deference, and public interest requirements of that section and the Commission's procedures under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project, under the extension described in subsection (b), not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) that the Commission issued, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2841, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very similar to the bill we just went through, so that my description is going to be very brief. Then I will yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Kentucky.

Under section 13 of the Federal Power Act, project construction must begin within 4 years of the issuance of a license. We know that. If construction is not begun by that time, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, again, cannot issue and cannot extend the deadline and must terminate the license.

H.R. 2841 provides for extension of the construction deadline of the Melahl project, a 35 megawatt hydroelectric project in the State of Kentucky, if the sponsor pursues the commencement of construction in good faith and with due diligence. According to the City of Augusta, the project sponsor, construction has not commenced because of challenges from various competing applicants for this particular license. H.R. 2841 provides for up to three different consecutive 2-year extensions.

I think that this is something that we have to proceed with, in conferring with my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL). I have to apologize for my voice. I have a little bit of laryngitis here today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2841 would simply extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a 35-megawatt hydroelectric project in Bracken County, Kentucky, for up to three additional 2-year periods. According to the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), construction has not commenced because of the lack of a power purchase agreement. The deadline for commencement of construction on this project expires on July 31, 1999.

H.R. 2841 does not ease the hydroelectric licensing requirement, but merely extends the period for commencement of project construction. The chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, the honorable gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER), has brought to the floor with this bill a manager's amendment which corrects a typographical error in section 1(b) of the legislation. I support this technical correction.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation is not controversial, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING).

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and manager, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER), and also my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), and I rise in strong support of H.R. 2841, legislation I introduced to extend the construction deadline for a proposed hydroelectric plant in my district.

Late last year I learned that the Augusta hydroelectric power project was running into some difficulties in securing private investors because of an impending construction deadline set by the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission.

This is an extremely important project to my constituents in the northern part of Kentucky, and without congressional actions to extend this deadline, thousands of residents in my State could miss out on a tremendous source of inexpensive electricity.

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The bill simply extends the present deadline set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for 6 more years, which will provide the necessary time for the city of Augusta Kentucky to seek and obtain new investors for this important project. However, without our assistance today, this project will not meet its current construction deadline and be terminated.

By passing this legislation, we can help make sure that that does not happen. I appreciate the Committee on Commerce's quick action in bringing this important bill to the floor and look forward to working with them in the future to make sure this project is completed. I urge all of my colleagues to support this meaningful legislation.

I thank the chairman for yielding time to me.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2841, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO WINNING THE WAR ON DRUGS

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 423) expressing the sense of the House with respect to winning the war on drugs to protect our children.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 423

Whereas drug abuse killed 14,218 Americans in 1995 and it is estimated that nearly 114,000 Americans—many of them our youth—will have died as a result of drug abuse by the end of the period between 1992 and 2001, and it is estimated that 13,000,000 Americans used illegal drugs in 1996;

Whereas American taxpayers footed a \$150,000,000 bill for drug-related criminal and medical costs in 1997, which is more than we spent in 1997's Federal budget for programs to fund education, transportation and

infrastructure improvements, agriculture, energy, space and all foreign aid combined;

Whereas 34 percent of Americans see drug interdiction as a top priority foreign policy issue, above illegal immigration and the threat of terrorism, and 39 percent of Americans believe decreasing drug trafficking should be our primary objective in United States policy toward Latin America; and

Whereas the week of September 13 through 19, 1998 has been designated as the "Drug-Free America Blue Ribbon Campaign Week" to remind our children that they are not alone in the fight for a Drug-Free America: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House that—

(1) the House declares its commitment to create a Drug-Free America;

(2) the Members of the House should work personally to mobilize kids, parents, faith-based and community organizations, educators, local officials and law enforcement officers, as well as coaches and athletes to wage a winning war on drugs;

(3) the House pledges to pass legislation that provides the weapons and tools necessary to protect our children and our communities from the dangers of drug addiction and violence; and

(4) the United States will fight this war on drugs on three major battlefronts:

(A) Deterring demand.

(B) Stopping supply.

(C) Increasing accountability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. HASTERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 423.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing a grave situation in this country, a situation that is not unlike scenes that we have faced within the last 20 years. Our children are being constantly nibbled away at with the threat of drugs, drugs in our communities, drugs in our neighborhoods, drugs in our schools. And we have constantly tried to wage this war. Unfortunately, it has been a war that has not been coordinated over the years, a war that policy does not always meet the appropriations, and a war where the public hears a little bit but sees little.

It is time for this Congress and this Nation to move forward to lay out a plan to win the war on drugs by the year 2002, to give the American people a solid plan to do this, to coordinate a policy and appropriations so the money goes to the place and gets the job done the quickest and the best. We must

raise the level of awareness that there is a serious drug epidemic in our society.

This winning the war on drugs resolution takes the initial step to do that by listing the unfortunate facts about drug usage, the associated costs borne by the American taxpayers through drug-related crime and violence as well as higher medical bills.

I am pleased to see that just today the Congress has even pulled the President to the table and spurred him to propose a crime initiative that at its roots claims to target illegal drugs and money laundering, key aspects of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug Free America agenda. This is a step in the right direction. National leaders need to come together. National leaders need to be engaged on this national problem.

The resolution also designates the second week of September as Drug Free America Blue Ribbon Campaign Week so every American can join together to protest illegal drugs by wearing a straight blue ribbon. Finally and most importantly for this body, it declares the House commitment to win the war on drugs by deterring demand, stopping supply and increasing accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution expressing the sense of the House with respect to winning the war on drugs to protect our children. Since the majority party did not, for whatever reason, have hearings on this bill, I thought I would just read for Members in the House that are watching today just the basic thrust of the bill:

*Resolved* that it is the sense of the House that the House declares its commitment to create a Drug-Free America; that Members of the House should work personally to mobilize kids, parents, faith-based and community organizations, educators, local officials and law enforcement officers as well as coaches and athletes to wage a winning war on drugs; that the House pledges to pass legislation that provides the weapons and tools necessary to protect our children and our communities from the dangers of drug addiction and violence; and that the United States will fight this war on drugs on three major battlefronts: deterring demand, stopping supply, increasing accountability.

That is the resolution in front of us. Who could oppose it?

While I share my colleagues' commitment to protecting our children from the dangers of drug abuse, Mr. Speaker, I have my doubts that a 3-page resolution which commits this House to the creation of a drug-free America will move the Nation any nearer to accomplish this goal. It will not stop one more child from using drugs. It will not prevent another young man or young woman from overdosing on drugs. It will not stop a single drug dealer from